



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Two Men Convicted in Non-Fatal, Drug-Related Shooting in Columbia**

Two men arrested for a drug-related, non-fatal shooting in Columbia are facing more than 100 years in prison each, following guilty verdicts in their week-long trial which concluded late last night. Erik D. Shird, 24, formerly of the 6100 block of Turnabout Lane in Columbia, was convicted on three counts of first-degree assault, along with firearm and drug trafficking charges. A Howard County jury also convicted his co-defendant, Daries T. Williams, 22, of the 300 block of Joplin Street in Baltimore, of three counts of first-degree assault and firearm charges in the shooting of a Baltimore man.

On January 7, 2017, police were called to the 6100 block of Old Dobbin Lane at 5:08 p.m. for a report of a male subject who had been shot in the leg. Officers were quickly able to locate the victim and two suspects, and recover the handgun used in the attempted armed robbery. The victim, Kristopher Odle, then-37, of Stemmers Run Road in Baltimore was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center and survived three gunshot wounds to his leg and arm.

Odle testified that he had driven to a Long Reach apartment complex, after being contacted by Shird, to sell four ounces of marijuana for \$900. But when questioned by Assistant State's Attorney Natasha Byus, Odle admitted that he didn't bring the marijuana. "I didn't trust him (Shird)," Odle explained from the witness stand. The lead detective in the case testified that neither Shird nor Williams possessed \$900 to buy the marijuana when they were arrested.

After deliberating almost six hours the jury declined to convict Shird and Williams of the most serious counts in the indictments—attempted first-degree murder—even though five shots were fired, at close-range as Odle sat at the wheel of his girlfriend's car.

Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker set a sentencing date of August 24 for Erik Shird. Daries Williams will be sentenced on October 27.

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